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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

THOMAS et al.

Serial No.: 09/486,280

For: MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL
AND METHOD FOR
RECOVERING, STORING
AND/OR TRANSPORTING AND
OFF-LOADING MATERIAL IN A
DREDGING OPERATION

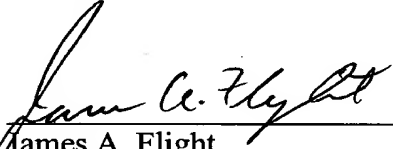
Filed: February 24, 2000

Group Art Unit: 3652

Examiner: J. Krizek

) I hereby certify that this paper is
) being deposited with the United
) States Postal Service as first-class
) mail, postage prepaid, in an
) envelope addressed to:
) Commissioner for Patents,
) Washington, D.C. 20231, on this
) date:

June 26, 2002

) 
) James A. Flight
) Registration No. 37,622
) Attorney for Applicants

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 26, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The applicants have carefully considered the election of species
requirement contained in the Office action dated February 26, 2002.

Applicants hereby elect the species corresponding to Species A
(FIG. 1) without traverse. Claims 1-3, 5-18, 21-26, and 28-36 read on the
elected species.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for
allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Since a
generic claim is allowable, applicants respectfully request examination of non-
elected claims 4, 19-20 and 27 along with the elected claims 1-3, 5-18, 21-26,
and 28-36 at this time.

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GROUP 3600

A petition for a three-month extension of time and the corresponding
fee is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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Registration No. 37,622
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June 26, 2002

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